

Cauvery and the Sharavati have lowered their water from the high plains or the hill country to near the level of the sea and in the league on league of cultivated land in the plains, strangers visiting the country have seen a combination of the beauty of many another land. A journey through the Karnataka strikes new eyes as not so much a journey as progress through a garden. Even to eyes which see it every day, this beauty does not grow stale.

A country so beautiful and rich could hardly have an uneventful history. Many a local tradition speaks of the stay of Ramachandra and Sita here on their way to the south as also of the Paidava brothers and the Kings of the *Mahabharata*. Here, if tradition is to be believed, the civilisation of the Aryan from the North first came into serious conflict with that other civilisation of the South of which Lanka was the richest expression*. Somewhere here was the kingdom of Virata in which the Pandava princes found refuge in the last year of their exile. Later times saw alarms and excursions in plenty, and the country has been ruled over by kings of many dynasties, Kadamba and Chola, Ganga and Chalukya, Kalachurya and Rashtrakuta, who exercised power from capitals in the north and south and in the heart of the Karnataka itself. It came under the sway of the Vijayanagar Kings and then many a local chieftain who took

advantage of the
confusion of the dissolution of that
empire to set tip
as an independent prince, It came last
under the
Rajas of Mysore and was for a short time
under
Haider and Tipu. At the time of the
restoration of
the present Royal House on the close of
the Mysore